

Status of Issues from March 12, 2008 EPA-DEQ-LWG Background Approach Technical Meeting

Background Approach Issue	Status of Issue at End of Meeting	Resolution Status
Statistical Methods	EPA is open to the LWG using statistical methods other than ProUCL for developing background values.	LWG to propose specific approach in April 30 meeting on background methods.
	EPA will consider statistical endpoints other than central tendency estimates given by ProUCL.	LWG to propose specific approach in April 30 meeting on background methods.
Uses of “Background” Values	<p>The following are the general uses of “background” in the RI/FS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PRG development 2. Risk characterization 3. Development of Remediation Goals and AOPCs (hill topping replacement values) 4. Criteria for assessing long-term monitoring 5. Evaluation of potential capping material 6. Possibly recontamination evaluation (it was discussed that this may not be properly defined as a background issue) 	<p>Issue resolved.</p> <p>LWG to propose specific approaches for each use in April 30 meeting on background methods.</p>
Use of Upstream Tissue Data	EPA indicated that upstream fish tissue data should not be used in background assessments but could be presented outside the RI Report for “informational purposes”.	Unresolved. Further technical discussions not useful.

March 27, 2008

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Atmospheric Deposition	The LWG will do a literature-based evaluation of the effects of “background” atmospheric deposition on stormwater and upstream inputs, but no new data will be collected.	LWG agrees with this approach.	Details of approach to be discussed further at April 2 nd meeting on F&T issues.
Use of Anthropogenic Background	The LWG will develop background values for anthropogenic chemicals in addition to naturally-occurring chemicals for use in risk characterization and development of remediation goals.	LWG intends to use anthropogenic background in all of the background purposes noted above.	Details of approach to be discussed further at April 9 th meeting on development approach for PRGs/AOPCs.
Background Data Set	Bedded sediment, sediment trap, and surface water data from between RMs 11 and 15 may be assessed for potential use in background determinations. EPA indicated the use of sediment trap and surface water data was dependent on the purpose of the analysis, and that EPA has a strong preference for the use of the upstream bedded sediment data in background determinations.	LWG wants to consider use of data between RMs 11 and 15 in the background evaluations, including an analysis of potential outliers that are due to localized sources. Where localized sources are indicated, we would exclude these from the background data set	LWG to propose specific approach in April 30 meeting on background methods.
Hilltopping Replacement Values in AOPC Development	The LWG and EPA still need to agree on use of background in developing replacement values for hilltopping exercise.	LWG wants to use a range of background values as hilltopping replacement values.	LWG to propose specific approach in April 30 meeting on background methods.
Harbor “Baseline” Values	EPA indicated the LWG should consider the concept of within harbor “baseline” and its potential uses.	LWG agrees this is a useful concept for some purposes but does not want to use harbor baseline values as hilltopping replacement values.	LWG to propose specific approach in April 30 meeting on background methods.

March 27, 2008